

REMARKS

Claims 1-65, 70, and 71 are canceled. Claims 66-69 and 72-80 are pending. Claims 66, 76, and 78-80 are amended herein as described below. These amendments are made, in part, pursuant to telephone discussions with the Examiner on August 21 and 23, 2007 as discussed further below.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 66 and 72-80 were rejected for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2005/0250936 to Oppermann et al. ("Oppermann"). Specifically, the Examiner states that Oppermann describes a fusion protein containing inhibin α or inhibin β and a collagen-binding domain. Solely to facilitate prosecution of the present application, independent claims 66, 72 and 80 have been amended to delete reference to inhibin α and inhibin β . The claims, as amended, are not anticipated by Oppermann, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 76, 78 and 79 were rejected for allegedly being indefinite. Claim 76 has been amended to recite "an isolated host cell" and claims 78 and 79 have been amended to recite "wherein the host cell is" as suggested by the Examiner. No new matter is entered by way of these amendments and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 80 was rejected for allegedly being indefinite for failing to recite an intended use of the pharmaceutical composition. Pursuant to telephone discussions with the Examiner on August 21 and 23, 2007, claim 80 has been amended to recite "pharmaceutical composition for stimulating epithelial cell proliferation." It is Applicants understanding that this amendment addresses all the Examiner's concerns and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph, Enablement

Claim 80 was rejected for allegedly lacking enablement. Pursuant to telephone discussions with the Examiner on August 21 and 23, 2007, this rejection is based on the fact that claim 80 fails to recite an intended use of the pharmaceutical composition. As mentioned above,

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claim 80 has been amended to recite "pharmaceutical composition for stimulating epithelial cell proliferation." It is Applicants understanding that this amendment addresses all the Examiner's concerns and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

It is believed that no fee is due. However, please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 21, 2007



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